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(54) **Skin care of food composition containing N-acetyl-glucosamine**

(57) The present invention provides a skin care agent comprising N-acetylglucosamine as an active ingredient. The skin care agent is preferably in the form of tablets, capsules, powder such as dust or granules, liquid or paste. The skin care agent of the present invention may be incorporated into foods such as confectioneries, powdered soup and beverages. By orally ingesting the skin care agent of the present invention, the N-acetylglucosamine as an active ingredient is rapidly absorbed, and by utilizing a part thereof as a starting material of acidic mucopolysaccharides such as hyaluronic acid or chondroitin sulfate, the moisture and tension of skin can be improved and the rough skin and fine wrinkles can be prevented or ameliorated.

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# PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

which under Rule 45 of the European Patent Convention shall be considered, for the purposes of subsequent proceedings, as the European search report

EP 00 30 3523

| DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT   |   |                                  |   |
|---|---|----------------------------------|---|
| Category  | Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages                                   | Relevant to claim                | CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)  |
| X   | US 5 804 594 A (MURAD HOWARD)<br>8 September 1998 (1998-09-08)<br>* column 4, line 38-46; example 3 *           | 1-7, 10                          | A61K7/48<br>A23G3/00<br>A23G3/30<br>A23L1/06<br>A23L1/40<br>A23L2/52<br>A21D2/18<br>A61K31/00 |
| X   | US 5 866 142 A (RIORDAN NEIL H)<br>2 February 1999 (1999-02-02)<br>* column 7, line 26-44 *<br>* claims 1,5,7 * | 1-7                              |   |
| X   | GB 2 317 109 A (FARMSSENSE)<br>18 March 1998 (1998-03-18)<br>* the whole document *                             | 1-6, 10                          |   |
| X   | FR 2 609 397 A (SEROBIOLOGIQUES LAB SA)<br>15 July 1988 (1988-07-15)<br>* page 4, line 4,5 *<br>* example 9 *   | 1-7                              |   |
|   |   |                                  | TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)  |
|   |   |                                  | A61K<br>A23G<br>A23L<br>A21D  |
| INCOMPLETE SEARCH   |   |                                  |   |
| <p>The Search Division considers that the present application, or one or more of its claims, does/do not comply with the EPC to such an extent that a meaningful search into the state of the art cannot be carried out, or can only be carried out partially, for these claims.</p> <p>Claims searched completely :</p> <p>Claims searched incompletely :</p> <p>Claims not searched :</p> <p>Reason for the limitation of the search:</p> <p>see sheet C</p>  |   |                                  |   |
| Place of search   |   | Date of completion of the search | Examiner  |
| THE HAGUE   |   | 28 February 2001                 | Sierra Gonzalez, M  |
| CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS   |   |                                  |   |
| <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone<br/>Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category<br/>A : technological background<br/>O : non-written disclosure<br/>P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention<br/>E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date<br/>D : document cited in the application<br/>L : document cited for other reasons</p> <p>&amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p> |   |                                  |   |

EP0 FORM 1603 03.02 (P04/07)



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**INCOMPLETE SEARCH  
SHEET C**

Application Number  
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Although claims 8 and 9 are directed to a method of treatment of the human/animal body (Article 52(4) EPC), the search has been carried out and based on the alleged effects of the compound/composition.

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Claim(s) searched completely:  
1-7 10

Claim(s) not searched:  
8 9

Reason for the limitation of the search (non-patentable invention(s)):

Article 52 (4) EPC - Method for treatment of the human or animal body by therapy

**ANNEX T THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 00 30 3523

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on  
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28-02-2001

| Patent document<br>cited in search report |   | Publication<br>date | Patent family<br>member(s) | Publication<br>date |
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| US 5866142                                | A | 02-02-1999          | NONE                       |                     |
| GB 2317109                                | A | 18-03-1998          | NONE                       |                     |
| FR 2609397                                | A | 15-07-1988          | NONE                       |                     |

EPO FORM P0458

For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82